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10-23-1829

### William Berkeley Lewis letter to Moses Dawson

William Berkeley Lewis

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Washington Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1829

My L. Sir,

Your letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> has this moment been  
rec<sup>d</sup> and read. I have also to acknowledge the receipt  
of one from you some little time since, which  
I have from various causes omitted to answer  
until now. It is gratifying to learn that our  
friends in your City and County have succeeded  
in electing their entire Ticket to the Legislature.  
I regret, however, to hear of Mr. Haywards defeat.  
I think he deserves well of the party, and should  
not have been shov<sup>d</sup> aside for light, or trivial  
causes. I have no doubt, however, that the  
Federal Administration will still do some-  
thing for him, if he will accept of such situa-  
tion as they can give him. I think from  
the result of the elections in some other Counties  
in your State, (heard from,) that the Admini-  
stration Ticket will generally succeed in  
Ohio. If so, the Coalition will be driven from  
their last entrenchment. You will have  
seen the result of the last elections in Mary-  
land and New Jersey before this reaches you.  
They have met with a perfect rout in those  
two States.

In your letter next preceding the last you  
say it seems to be taken for granted that Gen<sup>l</sup>  
Jackson will ~~not~~ consent to serve but one  
term, and you wish to be advised upon that  
subject. You know very well that he has al-  
ways considered himself in the hands of the people,



and is more disposed to consult than wishes them his own feelings; if therefore his re-election should be demanded by the people and his health shall permit, there is no question but that he will serve another term. We should look to no other person, nor think of any other person for the presidency, until it is known that his services are not essential to the Republican interest, or that his health and constitution will not admit of his performing services. As to the succession of Genl. Jackson it is probable, at the proper time, you and myself will not differ. It may be well, in the mean time, to throw into your columns such editorial matter and notices as may be calculated to keep him prominently before the people, without seeming to have any design. But on all occasions, whenever it may be necessary to speak upon the subject, keep up the idea that Genl. Jackson will serve another term, and this he will do if his health and constitution will enable him to undergo the labour and arduous duties of the station.

If your friend Charley should again speak of any new arrangement by which Mr. Eaton is to go out of the Cabinet, you are authorized to give a flat contradiction to the statement. Mr. Eaton will never leave the Cabinet with the President's consent, it is true that great efforts have been made to drive him out, and exclude his wife from society, and by those too who profess to be friends of Genl. Jackson, but thus far they have failed in both instances. No man has been more cruelly treated than Mr. Eaton - a more wicked & corrupt combination to destroy a man was never formed. At the head of this faction is an apostate clergyman, who, forgetting that he is an ambassador of Christ, has been engaged in the dirty work of slan-

dering

dering female character. These unwholly efforts to destroy Mr. Eaton and his wife have produced some excitement among our friends, and will end, in all probability, in the overthrow of some who profess to be the friends of the President. Every specific charge which has been made against the purity of Mrs. Eaton's character, when investigated, is found to be false. No sooner, however, are they driven from their ground than they turn in to hunting up other slanders, thus by their perseverance it seems they are bent on the destruction of the Society of War. What may be the finale of this unpleasant affair I know not, but it will pretty speedily now be brought to a crisis. When it is gotten through with, our friends will be put in possession of the facts, in the mean time permit me to assure you that there is no fear of Eaton.

The President is in most excellent health and spirits. I have not seen him look better for many years. As requested I shall hand him your letter. You will have seen a letter written by Gov. Shelby & Genl. Jackson, relative to the Chickasaw treaty, published in the Kentucky Gazette, before this. The President informed me that he should send you a copy of that letter, which I suppose he has done.

This letter I should think must suffuse the cheeks of Todd and the young Shelby's with shame if they have any feeling; and what too must James Jackson, poor devil, think? I am curious to see what notice they will take of this document. - I wish you, my dear friend, to consider all my letters to you confidential. You are welcome to use any information they may contain, but let no one see them. Your friend.

W. Wallis



Major Lewis

Oct 23/29

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Waco  
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Mason Jackson Esq.

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